

Amendments to the specification:

Page 1

On Page 1, after the title of the invention, please insert the following new paragraph:

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

This application is entitled to the benefit of and incorporates by reference in their entireties essential subject matter disclosed in International Application No. PCT/EP2004/053264 filed on December 3, 2004 and European Patent Application No. 03 104 532.1 filed on December 3, 2003.

On Page 1, line 3, please insert the following: FIELD OF THE INVENTION.

Page 3

Please replace page 3, between lines 24 and 25, with the following: ~~Summary of the Invention~~ OBJECTS AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.

Pages 3 & 4

Please replace the paragraph between line 25 on page 3 and line 1 on page 4 with the following:

It is an object of the present invention to provide a simple and reliable method of manufacturing cooling plates for a metallurgical furnace with relatively low pressure losses. It is another object of the present invention to provide a reliable cooling plate with relatively low pressure losses that can be easily manufactured. These problems are solved by ~~a method in accordance with claim 1, respectively a cooling plate in accordance with claim 17~~ the present invention.

Page 4

On Page 4, please replace the paragraph between lines 2 and 10 with the following:

A method of manufacturing a cooling plate for a metallurgical furnace in

accordance with the present invention comprises the following steps: providing a metallic plate body with a front face, a rear face and at least one channel extending through the metallic plate body beneath its front face; inserting, with radial clearance, a metallic tube into the channel so that both tube ends protrude out of the channel, and achieving a press fit of the tube within the channel. According to an important aspect, the press fit is obtained through a metal-forming process applied to the metallic plate body. This metal-forming process results in shrinking of the section of the channel.

Page 8

On Page 8, please replace the paragraph between lines 7 and 14 with the following:

A cooling plate for a metallurgical furnace in accordance with the present invention comprises a metallic plate body with a front face, a rear face and at least one metallic tube extending through the metallic plate body beneath the front face so that both tube ends protrude out of the plate body. There is a press fit between the metallic plate body and the at least one metallic tube. According to an important aspect, the plate body is plastically deformed along said channel. It will be appreciated that plastic forming of the blank plate body provides a predominant contribution to the press fit.

Page 10

Please replace Page 10, between lines 6 and 7, with the following: ~~Description of a preferred embodiment~~ DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.